

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A database management apparatus which manages  
a database having a hierarchical classification  
structure in which a lower classification inherits  
5 a property of an upper classification that defines  
a plurality of properties, comprising:

a setting unit configured to set a typical  
property set including at least one of selective  
properties, each of the selective properties being  
10 selected from the properties defined in the present  
classification, or an upper classification, and all of  
the selective properties being inherited by the lower  
classification; and

a storage which stores the typical property set in  
15 association with the hierarchical classification  
structure.

2. A database management apparatus according to  
claim 1, wherein the typical property set is  
independent of another typical property set, and an  
20 identical property may belong to both of the typical  
property set and the another typical property set.

3. A database management apparatus according to  
claim 1, wherein the setting unit further sets  
extrinsic information that contains a query condition  
25 for each property in the typical property set.

4. A database management apparatus according to  
claim 1, wherein the setting unit further sets negative

inheritance in one of the properties in the typical property set so that the one of the properties fails to be inherited by the lower classification.

5       5. A database management apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a display having a screen on which the properties in the typical property set are displayed in a display order inherited by the lower classification together with the typical property set.

10       6. A database management apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the display order is allowed to be re-ordered by the setting unit of lower classification.

15       7. A database management apparatus according to claim 1, which further comprises a registry to resister a first user and a second user, and wherein said storage stores a first typical property set to be used by the first user and stores a second typical property set to be used by the second user.

20       8. A database management apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the registry registers a network address of the first user which a message indicative of registration of a new instance which satisfies a condition is informed of.

25       9. A database management apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the registry registers the network address of the first user further informed of a URI of the new instance.

10. A database management apparatus according to

claim 8, wherein the new instance is transmitted to the first user in response to a request based on the information of registration of the new instance.

11. A database management method of managing  
5 a database having a hierarchical classification structure in which a lower classification inherits a property of an upper classification defining a plurality of properties, the method comprising:

setting a typical property set including at least  
10 one of selective properties, each of the selective properties being selected from the properties defined in the present classification, or an upper classification, and all of the selective properties being inherited by the lower classification; and  
15 storing the typical property set in association with the hierarchical classification structure.

12. A database management method according to claim 11, wherein said typical property set is independent of another typical property set, and an  
20 identical property may belong to both of the typical property sets.

13. A database management method according to claim 11, further comprising:

setting extrinsic information that contains  
25 a query condition for each property in the typical property set.

14. A database management method according to

claim 11, further comprising:

setting negative inheritance in one of the  
properties in the typical property set so that the one  
of the properties fails to be inherited by the lower  
5 classification.

15. A database management method according to  
claim 11, further comprising:

displaying the properties in the typical property  
set on a screen in a display order, the display order  
10 being inherited by the lower classification together  
with the typical property set.

16. A database management method according to  
claim 15, wherein the display order is allowed to be  
re-ordered, using the setting unit of lower  
15 classification.

17. A database management method according to  
claim 11, further comprising:

registering a first user and registering a second  
user; and

20 storing a first typical property set to be used by  
the first user and storing a second typical property  
set to be used by the second user.

18. A database management method according to  
claim 17, further comprising:

25 registering a network address of the first user;  
and

informing a message indicative of registration of

a new instance which satisfies a condition to the first user according to the network address.

19. A database management method according to claim 18, further comprising:

5           informing the first user of a URI of the new instance.

20. A database management method according to claim 18, further comprising:

10           transmitting the new instance to the first user in response to a request based on the information of registration of the new instance.